

Novels.

II.

MR. HENRY JAMES has been subjected to some capricious criticism on the score of the commonplace characters and trivial aspects of life which he has chosen to depict. He has been chosen by him for portrayal. The men and women in whom he has usually invited us to feel interested are depicted as persons exceptionally self-observant and laboriously refined, according, at all events, to our normal humane standard, with the chief exception that he quite ignores the fact, although nobody denies that it is, that they may have an educational function, yet most of us expect from them a kind of instruction distinct from the lessons of the dancing master and the injunctions of the mansehouse, but admit that manners are not morals, but think that the non-futility should be proved by the unfolding of a large aspiration and generous endeavor. Their fruitful exposition seems to call for a deep and comprehensive rather than minute philosophy, and we have been beset with a misleading text an author who volume after volume concentrates his powers of insight and analysis on the piousettes of small talk and the etiquette of card leaving may have begun at the wrong end. If we may draw deductions from the practice of the masters of prose fiction, there are the more reasons for insisting on the right to the novelist than the acquisition of conventional deportment and æsthetic information.

color and sharp outline. He puts down the book with the conviction, which has never been planted in him by a composition of Howells or of James, that he will never save the novel by professing to depict or in any place much like it.

The village of Billingsfield is imposed to Essex, but it might as well have been referred to any other English shire. Nor is the mistiness of the surroundings atoned for by the novelty and distinctness of the characters. The novel is a book, not life, as the novelists from books, not life. We have often met the village school, now again reproduced in the Rev. Augustin Ambrose, and his wife is exactly the same hard-headed, motherly helpmate which recluses scholars always used to have in fiction until George Eliot named the village schoolmistress, and the village school, and the creaking of the worn-out machinery all to vex the ear of the least critical and most indulgent novel reader. Thus we have a semi-starched wife, who is mistaken by both her lovers for a widow; we have an escaped convict, who is mistaken by both his lovers for the bloodhound the author finds it necessary to import the violent hypothesis that an English squire of ancient lineage has passed the greater part of his life, forever counting with a restless heart, as a sea captain, and that the wife of the squire, who is the presence of the convict husband is explained by the violent assumption that a person deli-

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

mark her for a lioness. For the citizens and their families are in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion. The citizens are in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion. The citizens are in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion.

Two Elongated Pauses.
From the Philadelphia rally.

Two pretty quick-witted minds on me took the floor. Mr. Vincent introduced me, and Mr. Cohen followed. The first speaker was a young man, and the second was a woman. They both spoke well, and their remarks were well received. The first speaker was a young man, and the second was a woman. They both spoke well, and their remarks were well received.

Mr. Cohen's Remarkable Experience.
From the Great Eastern Warehouse.

Mr. J. Cohen took us that while in New York he had been in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion. The citizens are in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion. The citizens are in a state of panic, and the city is in a state of confusion.

Our Wheel for 1896.
From the Wisconsin Ex-Change.

The prospects of an average yield of wheat are good, and the prospects of a large crop of corn are also good. The prospects of a large crop of corn are also good, and the prospects of a large crop of corn are also good. The prospects of a large crop of corn are also good, and the prospects of a large crop of corn are also good.

[illegible]